

REMARKS

These remarks are set forth in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 13, 2005. As this amendment has been timely filed within the three-month statutory period and in conjunction with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination, neither an extension of time nor a fee is required. Presently, claims 1 through 13 are pending in the Patent Application. Claims 1, 7 and 8 are independent in nature.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-6 and 8-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,411,692 to Scherer et al. (Scherer) in view of Florida Citizens Now Able to Renew Vehicle Registration Via Telephone, in Business Wire at 2272 (April 11, 2001) (Florida), or Wisconsin is Set to Jump on the Credit Card Bandwagon (Faulkner & Gray 1992) (Wisconsin), or Digital Launches Industry's First Time-Based Debit Card Service, in PR Newswire at 1110 (November 10, 1997) (Digital) and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,016,336 to Hanson.

Also, claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,744,877 to Edwards et al. (Edwards) in view of Florida Citizens Now Able to Renew Vehicle Registration Via Telephone, in Business Wire at 2272 (April 11, 2001) (Florida), or Wisconsin is Set to Jump on the Credit Card Bandwagon (Faulkner & Gray 1992) (Wisconsin), or Digital Launches Industry's First Time-Based Debit Card Service, in PR Newswire at 1110 (November 10, 1997) (Digital) and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,016,336 to Hanson.

In response, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 7 and 8 owing to the helpful personal interviews of February 21, 2006 relating to several companion patent applications. (The

Examiner in the present case was not available for personal interview on that day). Specifically, on February 21, 2006, the Applicants met with Examiners Knowlin, Matar, Taylor, Bui and Ramakrishnaiah in respect to Appl S/N 10/744,248, Appl S/N 10/918,063, Appl S/N 740,787 and Appl S/N 10/852,829, all of which relate to similar core concepts. In all of those interviews, it was determined that a particular set of amendments would overcome the cited art (including Scherer and Hanson) in each respective case. In the instant case, it is similarly believed that the same amendments will be effective in overcoming the rejections on the cited art.

The agreed upon amendments of February 21, 2006 reflected the following two important distinguishing points:

- (1) The subscriber and call center exist separately from the PSTN and are coupled to different portions of the PSTN (e.g. the PSTN and the call center are separate entities); and,
- (2) The data communications link over which the alias of the subscriber is passed to the call center is separate from the telephonic link from the caller to the called party in that it originates within the PSTN and terminates in the call center. (See Figure 2)

The Applicants encourage the Examiner to caucus with those other Examiners for confirmation of the Applicants' statements.

Accordingly, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 7 and 8 to incorporate limitations that are consistent with the distinguishing points. These claim amendments are believed to overcome the cited art and the Applicants believe that amended claims 1-13 stand patentable and ready for an indication of allowance. To that end, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) owing to the foregoing remarks. The

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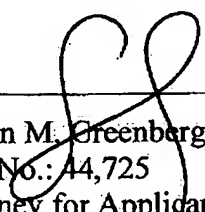
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Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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